

Geneva, September 24th, 1926.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

INTERPRETATION OF THE PREAMBLE AND ARTICLES 3 AND 4 OF THE COVENANT

Report by the First Committee.

Rapporteur: Professor BARTHÉLEMY.

On September 14th, 1926, the Assembly referred to its First Committee a proposal by the British Delegation, as follows:

"The Assembly requests the Council to appoint a Committee to consider and report what questions are and what are not within the sphere of action of the League within the meaning of the Preamble and Articles 3 and 4 of the Covenant, especially with reference to the questions which are now being dealt with by the organs of the League or are proposed to be so dealt with".

During discussion in the First Committee, the British delegate withdrew his proposal for the appointment of a Committee of the Council, basing his withdrawal on various considerations, more particularly on the desire to avoid the expense which would be incurred by the meeting of this Committee at Geneva outside the sessions of the Assembly.

The British delegate submitted to the First Committee a memorandum setting forth the arguments in support of the other parts of the proposal.

After a full discussion, which maintained a very high level, the First Committee recommends to the Assembly the adoption of the following Resolution:

"The Assembly:

"Having considered with the deepest interest Viscount Cecil's proposal and the memorandum of the British delegation annexed to the present resolution¹;

"Shares the feelings which inspired these two documents;

"Recognises that the League of Nations should avoid dissipating its activity upon subjects which might divert it from its lofty mission of promoting the peace of the world and facilitating co-operation between nations for the peaceful progress of mankind;

"Recommends that each body forming part of the League, before taking into consideration any proposal submitted to it, should satisfy itself that the proposal is in accordance with the objects of the League as indicated by the Covenant and possesses real importance from the point of view of the attainment of those objects;

"Decides that in case of doubt, and if so requested by a member of the body, the question shall be submitted to the Council, in the interval between the sessions of the Assembly, and, during those sessions, to the Committee appointed by the Assembly for legal and constitutional questions.

"The present resolution shall be brought by the Secretary-General to the knowledge of the various bodies forming part of the League."

¹ See Annex.

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